

Memorandum of Understanding  
Between the New Jersey Department of Environmental  
Protection and Energy and the  
New Jersey State Planning Commission

The New Jersey State Planning Commission (hereinafter the Commission) adopted New Jersey's first State Development and Redevelopment Plan (hereinafter the Plan) on June 12, 1992. Governor Jim Florio hailed the Plan as a "landmark consensus-building process between citizens and all levels of government;" and directed all State agencies to make recommendations as to the ways the the Plan should be implemented, using that review as an "opportunity to reduce, clarify or simplify regulatory requirements where possible."

In accordance with this directive, the Commission and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (hereinafter the Department) agree to cooperatively endeavor to implement the Plan.

Moreover, the Commission and the Department agree that their joint endeavors to implement the Plan will focus on managing growth to encourage development at locations and in patterns recommended by the strategies and policies contained in the Plan; and in ways that will also simultaneously encourage the accomplishment of the Department's mission and achievement of its legal mandates to protect the environment and natural resources of the State of New Jersey.

Furthermore, the Commission and the Department hereby agree to jointly issue a report in December 1993 and each December thereafter. The report shall include a list of accomplishments that support the implementation of the Plan with an initial emphasis on the items listed below.

The Department hereby agrees to cooperate with the Commission to do the following to implement the Plan;

- 1) promote collaborative data base development and the exchange of information between the two agencies, and establish appropriate institutional mechanisms to ensure that data base development and the exchange of information occur generally, and more specifically related to such matters as scenic corridors, parks and open space, flood plains, critical slopes, tidal and freshwater wetlands, critical habitats, sewer service areas, aquifer recharge areas, and air quality regions.
- 2) support the Office of State Planning in the fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities with respect to its planning activities, including, but not necessarily limited to, the legislatively mandated infrastructure needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation. Include procedures to encourage support at the earliest possible phases of planning and assessment.
- 3) identify and assist in the review of "critical environmental/historic sites" and "areas of critical state concern" as recommended in the Plan and devise sound planning and

management practices with respect to those sites and areas in ways consistent with the Plan.

- 4) establish policies to facilitate the development of "centers" and to encourage development in ways consistent with the policy objectives of the "planning areas" constituting the "Resource and Management Structure" of the Plan. Also, improve the coordination of planning, monitoring, investment and regulatory activities of the Department to achieve those purposes.
- 5) revise the Department's coastal region map and attendant policies so as to be compatible with the Plan's "Resource Planning and Management Structure."
- 6) participate with the Office of State Planning in its review and assessment of Department functional plans, such as water quality, water supply, air quality, energy, recreation, and open space; and encourage mutual participation on advisory bodies related to policy and plan development.

Furthermore, it is hereby acknowledged by the Commission and the Department, that the Plan is a policy guide. The principles embodied in the Plan outline the central development issues to be addressed by the Department in conjunction with its primary state and federal mandates.

Finally, the Department will consider appropriate modifications to procedures, policies, programming and/or regulations in ways that would facilitate the implementation of the Plan. However, both the Department and the Commission hereby acknowledge the interactive and dynamic nature of the State Planning cross-acceptance process that may very well result in changes in either or both the Plan and/or the procedures, policies, and/or regulations of the Department.

Jeanne M. Fox  
Jeanne M. Fox  
Acting Commissioner  
New Jersey Department  
of Environmental Protection  
and Energy

Date: August 5, 1993

James G. Gilbert  
James G. Gilbert  
Chair  
New Jersey State Planning  
Commission

Date: 8-30-93